

§ 103.16 Meals to be furnished by vessel in certain cases.

Vessels shall furnish meals to Panama Canal pilots without charge during the ship's regular meal hours and shall furnish a meal to the pilot between 2200 hours and 0400 hours if the vessel is transiting the Canal during such hours. In addition, vessels shall provide meals without charge during the ship's regular meal hours to any other Panama Canal Commission personnel, other than linehandlers, whose assignment will require them to be aboard the vessel for four or more hours. If a vessel is unable to furnish such meals, they may be furnished by the Panama Canal Commission at the expense of the vessel.

§ 103.17 Boat for handling lines.

A vessel shall keep at least one boat ready for lowering, for the purpose of handling lines.

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§ 103.18 Pilot ladders, hoists and side ports.

(a) A vessel shall, weather permitting, have both an accommodation ladder and a pilot ladder rigged and ready for use upon arrival in Canal waters.

(b) The pilot ladder shall be constructed and rigged in accordance with Regulation 17, Chapter V, International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, TIAS 9700, except that:

(c) When the distance from the water line to the point of access of the vessel exceeds nine meters or 30 feet, a combination pilot ladder and short brow accommodation ladder must be provided for boarding purposes.

(d) A mechanical pilot hoist may be used for boarding officials and pilots only at their discretion, and provided that the design and construction of the

hoist and ancillary equipment are in accordance with Regulation 17, Chapter V, International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea, 1974.

(e) When a mechanical pilot hoist is used, a ring buoy fitted with a lifeline and self-igniting light shall be available and ready for immediate use. The pilot ladder required by § 103.18(a) shall be in close proximity to the pilot hoist, ready for immediate use but lashed up so as not to interfere with the pilot hoist.

(f) When the side ports are used for boarding, the minimum vertical distance between the waterline and the bottom of the side port at any draft shall be six feet.

§ 103.19 Requirement for pilot shelter platforms.

(a) Any vessel that, in accordance with Panama Canal operation standards, is required to have three or more pilots aboard, shall provide suitable pilot shelter platforms for the assisting pilots. The purpose for the pilot platforms is to provide shelters from sun and rain for pilots working near the bow or the stern of a vessel and to provide adequate visibility around the locks in order to reduce the danger of damage. In general, this bow/stern pilot shelter platforms are required on ships of 190.5 meters (625 feet) or more in length and a beam of 30.5 meters (100 feet) or greater. They may also be required on certain smaller ships that the Marine Director or his designated representative determine require three or more pilots. Those vessels requiring shelters shall provide them for use no later than six months from the effective date of the final rule.

(b) The following is a sketch of a simplified pilot platform which is acceptable to the Panama Canal Commission: